

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2003 (Paper No. 4).

Applicants affirm the election of Group III consisting of Claim 38.

Claim 38, step (b), has been amended to distinguish over the teachings of Macaire et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,230,844.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macaire et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,230,844. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the following reasons.

The Teachings of Macaire et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,230,844

Macaire et al. teaches a process (Fig. 1) wherein layers of prepreg 6 are placed in the bottom 4 of mold 1 and layers of prepreg 5 are placed in the upper part 3 of mold 6.

Amended Claim 38 Would Not Have Been Obvious in View of Macaire et al.

Macaire et al. does not teach anything regarding step (b) of amended Claim 38: "arranging a sheet of prepreg material around the inside of the internal cavity, the prepreg being of a size such that the prepreg extends around the inner circumference of the mold."

Therefore, Macaire et al. does not render obvious the subject matter now recited in amended Claim 38. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this Section 103(a) rejection based on Macaire et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above discussion, applicants believe that amended Claim 38 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this claim. If

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any issues remain that may be expeditiously address in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at 206-695-1707.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

May 21, 2003

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